

## An Endorsement

### Urging the United States Congress to Enact The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

We, the undersigned, assert that, because climate change presents an existential threat to human life on earth, and because it is therefore vital that we work swiftly to lower the nation's carbon emissions, the United States Congress should consider and pass **The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, as soon as possible. Our endorsement is based on the following facts:

In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report warning that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if current trends continue, adding that we have only until 2030 to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit warming to moderate levels.

In November 2018, the United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country, and that more frequent and extreme weather events are expected to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social support networks that provide essential benefits to communities in the years ahead.

Conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that, to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80-95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, an outcome that can be achieved only by aggressive national action and international cooperation.

To that end we recognize that **The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act** establishes a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions. The fee will increase by at least \$10 per ton each year until emission targets are met. In order to protect low- and middle-income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, the Act allocates equal monthly payments to all American households from the fossil fuel fees collected.

Further, to preempt outsourcing and to maintain the competitiveness of American industry, the Act imposes a border adjustment fee on products imported from nations without comparable carbon pricing, reissuing those monies as refunds to American exporters who must pay comparable fees imposed by other nations. This market-based solution is projected to lower America's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40 percent in the first 12 years, while adding over 2 million jobs and dramatically reducing deaths attributed to air pollution.

Understanding both the threats posed by global climate change and the challenges faced by American industries as they work to adapt their methods, we hereby endorse **The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act** as the most promising and practical way forward, and urge Congress to expedite its passage.

**Co-signed by**

Rev. Steve Hummel—United Church of Christ

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Rev. Mark Reisinger—United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tormod Svensson—Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of America

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Mel Endy—Millville Friends Meeting

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Rev. Joel Zeiders—Evangelical Lutheran Congregations of America

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Rev. Mark Rowell—United Church of Christ

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